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IRELAND'S

LIVESTOCK
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FOR THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE

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Acknowledgment

The author wishes to express his appreciation for the help given him by Irish Government officials, representatives of the Irish livestock and meat industry and associations, processors, traders, and exporters during his on-the-spot study last summer of the livestock and meat industry of the Republic of Ireland. Also most helpful to him was the assistance of the U.S. Agricultural Attaché, William R. Hatch, and his staff.

IRELAND'S LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY

By Claude E. Dobbins
Livestock and Meat Products Division

Introduction

The Republic of Ireland comprises the 26 counties of Southern Ireland--an area of 27,000 square miles, about half the size of the State of Wisconsin. It is bounded on the east by the Irish Sea and St. George's Channel, on the south and west by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the north by Northern Ireland and the Atlantic Ocean. The population is 2.8 million.

The topography of Ireland resembles a basin, owing to its hilly and mountainous regions, 2,000 to 3,000 feet in height, that border the low-lying, rolling plains of bog, pasture, and farmland.

The climate is mild and free of extremes. Although rain and dampness are commonly associated with the Irish climate, there are occasional prolonged periods of dry weather. The winters are usually free of severe frost. Temperatures generally vary between 35° F. in winter to 75° F. in summer. Rainfall, more constant on the western coast than in the eastern sections, averages about 42 inches a year, and is heavier and more frequent than in Western Europe.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Ireland and livestock and livestock products account for approximately 75 percent of the gross value of farm output. Cattle and pigs are the most important animals; eggs and milk are the leading livestock products. The policy of the Irish Government is to increase overall agricultural production and exports in order to provide the foreign exchange necessary to finance general economic expansion. Government aims for the country are to produce its requirements of food for both the human and animal population, to provide the raw materials for industry based on agriculture, and to expand, as far as possible, the exports of livestock and livestock products. In order to carry out this policy, the government has initiated a number of special projects, such as land reclamation, eradication of bovine tuberculosis, upbreeding of livestock, improvement of farm buildings and facilities, and fatstock subsidies.

Summary

Cattle numbers reached an alltime high of 4.3 million head in 1960, 10 percent above the 3.9 million average for 1951-55. Beef cattle are produced in every county in Ireland, and on nearly every farm. They are crosses between the dairy cow and the beef-type bull, and are produced mostly on pasture.

Hog numbers reached 875,000 head during 1960, 24 percent above the 1951-55 average of 705,000 head. They are also produced throughout Ireland, with the heaviest population being centered in the barley and milk-producing regions. Ireland is attempting to produce longer and leaner hogs which are in demand both domestically and in foreign markets.

Irish sheep numbers totaled 3.2 million head in 1960, 52 percent above the 2.1 million in 1951-55.

The Irish livestock producer, like the U.S. producer, can select market outlets for his animals and animal products, such as selling through private negotiations, dealers, packers, butchers, auctions, or exporters.

The slaughter of live animals in Ireland is on the increase. During 1960, over a half million head of cattle were slaughtered, 42 percent more than in 1951-55. Slaughter facilities are adequate to increase slaughter as rapidly as foreign market outlets require. Live animal and meat inspection is mandatory according to the statutes of the Irish Government.

Ireland has trade agreements with most of the Western European countries, the most important of which is with the United Kingdom. In addition, there are agreements for livestock quotas with West Germany, France, and Belgium. Export subsidies are paid on Irish bacon.

The main export outlet for Irish livestock products is the United Kingdom, which takes 80 to 85 percent of total annual Irish exports. During 1960, Ireland exported 542,000 head of cattle, of which the United Kingdom took 512,000. Irish cattle and sheep are eligible for subsidy payments under the provisions of the U.K. Fatstock Marketing Scheme. Ireland also has a Fat Cattle Subsidy provision through which payment is made for fat cattle exported to the United Kingdom and slaughtered within 72 hours after arrival.

Ireland also exports a large amount of beef and veal, for which the United States has become the most important outlet, especially for boneless beef. During 1960 the United States took 56.3 million pounds, or 87 percent of total boneless beef exports. The United Kingdom is the main outlet for fresh or chilled beef. Other countries of less importance as outlets for Irish beef and veal are West Germany, Italy, and France.

Nearly all sheep, mutton, and lamb exported from Ireland are taken by the United Kingdom. Ireland is a large exporter of pork, mostly in the form of Wiltshire sides. At least 90 percent of these products go to the United Kingdom. In addition, Ireland exports hams, canned hams, and sausages.

Consumption of red meat during 1960 averaged 105.9 pounds per capita, compared with 104.0 pounds in 1959. Since Ireland depends to a large extent on livestock and meat products to earn foreign exchange, meat consumption is not as high in this country as would be expected in a country with such high meat production. The consumption of meat is extremely low compared with that of Uruguay, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Ireland consumes, by far, more pork than any other type of meat.

Ireland will continue to be an exporter of live animals and meat products to the United Kingdom, and will be able to compete with Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand in this market. The United States is expected to import boneless beef for manufacturing purposes from Ireland until such time as production of animals in the cutter and canner beef class in the United States increase sufficiently to supply domestic requirements.

Fat cattle prices at the Dublin market on November 15, 1961, were \$14.38 per hundred pounds, compared with \$13.54 on the same date a year earlier. Average prices of good steers at Chicago on November 19, 1961, were \$24.25 per hundred, compared with \$24.60 in 1960. Cattle prices in the Dublin market have increased gradually during the past 10 years. In 1951, fat steer prices averaged \$12.66 per hundred; the average price for the 1951-55 period was \$14.66, and the average for 1958 was \$15.97.

Importance of Livestock Industry

Livestock farming is the most important type of farming in Ireland. During 1960, gross agricultural output totaled slightly over US\$545 million, of which livestock accounted for about 75 percent. Also, livestock and meat products earn about 40 percent of the country's foreign exchange annually. And about 90 percent of the rural population is engaged in livestock farming in some capacity.

Cattle.--Cattle numbers in Ireland reached an alltime high of 4.3 million head during 1960, 5 percent above the 4.1 million-head total of 1959, and 10 percent above the 3.9 million-head average for 1951-55.

Most of the beef cattle destined for slaughter originate on dairy farms. About 95 percent of the Irish beef animals are a cross between the dairy cow and the beef bull. The remaining 5 percent are the beef-type breed.

For dairy stock, the majority of the breeding cows are dairy Shorthorn, crossed with the Hereford or Aberdeen Angus. At present, there is a strong trend toward the Holstein Freisan to replace the dairy Shorthorn as a milk and breeding cow.

The most prominent beef type breeds in Ireland are the Hereford, Aberdeen Angus, and Shorthorn. However, the Irish Government recently investigated the possible purchase of



Above, dual-purpose native Kerry cattle, near Ireland's Lake of Killarney. Left, herd of purebred Herefords near Dublin. Herefords are becoming increasingly important in Ireland as a beef breed.

Charolais bulls with which to cross on dairy breeding cows.

Slaughter cattle are produced in all 26 counties of Ireland, with the heaviest concentration in the south and west, i.e., Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Kerry counties.

Beef cattle can be successfully raised on nearly every farm in Ireland. The country has mild winters and produces abundant pastures. Therefore, beef animals are mostly grassfed and grassfattened. Very little grain is used in producing beef animals.

The majority of calves for slaughter are produced in the dairy areas. These are generally sold to feeders in the western counties, or in the general area where the calves are born. This transfer takes place when the calves are about a year old. After they have been in this area for a while, they are generally sold again and moved to the northwestern or midland part of Ireland. Here they are kept for at least one season and then resold to farmers who specialize in fattening. Thereafter they are either moved to slaughterhouses in Ireland or shipped to the United Kingdom or other European countries as fat or "store" cattle.

Beef production is, therefore, not a single enterprise since an animal may be born on one farm, raised on a second, kept as a store or feeder on a third, and fattened on a fourth.

Hogs.--During 1960, hog numbers were estimated at 875,000 head, which is 10 percent above the 1959 estimated total of 793,000 head, and 24 percent above the 1951-55 average of 705,000 head.

As is true of other livestock, hogs are produced in most of Ireland, with the heaviest pig population being centered in the main barley-producing regions of Cork, Waterford, and Carlow counties. There is also a heavy pig-producing area in the northern part of Ireland in Cavan, Monaghan, and Sligo counties.

TABLE 1.--LIVESTOCK,^{1/} Number in Ireland, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Average:	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>
1951-55	3,925	2,118	705
Annual:			
1956	4,070	2,484	672
1957	4,022	2,560	741
1958	3,969	2,866	874
1959	4,053	3,100	793
1960	4,273	3,225	875

^{1/} Livestock census in January.

Source: Irish Ministry of Agriculture.

The Landrace and Large White are the only breeds produced in Ireland, with the Large White being the most popular. The domestic and foreign markets are still demanding longer and leaner hogs from Ireland. Progeny testing, designed to produce this type of hog, is being carried on by the Agriculture Institute near Cork.

Sheep.--The number of sheep in Ireland during 1960 was estimated at 3.2 million head, 3 percent above the 3.1 million produced in 1959, and 52 percent above the 2.1 million-head average of 1951-55. Sheep numbers in the 1960 were the highest on record. The most important sheep breeds are the Galway, Cheviot, and Scotch Blackface. These breeding ewes are crossed with the Suffolk ram, which gives a popular lamb-producing combination in Ireland, especially in the flatlands. The Scotch Blackface is also crossed with the Suffolk ram, which produces a hardy offspring, able to withstand the rigorous weather that sometimes occurs in the uplands of Ireland.

Potential for Increased Production

Livestock production has increased substantially during the last 10 years. Cattle production increased about 8 percent during this period, while hog and sheep production gained 64 and 65 percent, respectively.

Ireland has natural resources available for expansion in livestock production, and the government is continuing to encourage production by subsidizing cattle, sheep, and hogs. At present a subsidy is available to Irish cattle and sheep producers for animals exported to the United Kingdom. Ireland is also attempting to stimulate production of livestock by the Tuberculosis Eradication Program.

Beef production is expected to increase slightly over the next few years. The increase, however, will depend on the ability of farmers to increase the number of dairy cattle on farms. In recent years the number has remained at approximately 1.2 million head. It is now believed that this will increase to 1.3 million head, or even as high as 1.5 million within the next few years.

Pig production has been encouraged through the Pig and Bacon Commission which administers the subsidy program under the Export Price and Guarantee Scheme for Grade A bacon.

In practically every way possible, the Irish Government is attempting to increase bacon production, and it is expected that hog numbers will increase substantially.

Marketing Practices

The Irish livestock producer has market outlets for his products similar to those of the U.S. producer. He himself may sell to local cattle dealers, packers, or to butchers. Nearly every large city has officially designated stockyards, which are under the auspices of the local authorities. There are also local and international meatpacking companies, as well as export outlets for live animals through exporters. Or the producer may sell through an auctioneer. Auction selling is practiced in the livestock yards, for which an auctioneer receives a commission for selling the live animals. Animals sold through this outlet may be put out to pasture for further feeding or be sent directly to feedlots, to slaughterhouses, or exported. The number of animals sold by auction is small in comparison with those sold directly by the producer.

Packing plants may also buy livestock direct from producers, either at the plant or on the farm. Livestock are moved in and out of stockyards by truck and rail, and into export channels by ship.

The marketing of livestock is under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture which has the responsibility of formulating marketing legislation. The responsibility of enforcing this legislation is usually delegated to local authorities under the overall supervision of the Ministry, which maintains offices at the large livestock centers for the purpose of market reporting, inspection, and the compilation of records.

Meat Production Policies

Ireland has three main government subsidy programs aimed at increasing production. These are the Tuberculosis Eradication Program, the Bacon and Pig Amendment Act of 1939, and the Fat Cattle Subsidy. Irish cattle and sheep are also eligible for the British Guarantee Scheme.

The TE Program is under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and is designed to free Irish cattle from tuberculosis. Considerable work has been done on tubercular testing and eradication, and an optimistic outlook indicates that within less than 3 years, the country may reach its goal. An Irish farmer who must dispose of a general reactor receives payment for the animal upon delivery to a licensed cannery. The farmer is also paid a bonus when his entire herd is declared free of tuberculosis.

The Pig and Bacon Commission was established with wide powers over the Irish pig industry by the Pig and Bacon Amendment Act of 1939. The overall objectives of this Commission are to increase production and price stabilization. In recent years, the Commission has administered subsidy payments under the Export Price Guarantee Scheme for Grade A bacon, the fixing of minimum prices for pigs, the operation of an insurance plan for pigs

TABLE 2.--MEAT: Irish production, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Year	Beef and veal	Pork	Mutton and lamb
	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>
Average:			
1951-55.	184	175	45
Annual:			
1956.	155	164	58
1957.	177	190	63
1958.	172	222	72
1959.	202	195	74
1960.	231	213	84

Source: Irish Ministry of Agriculture.

condemned on veterinarian examination, the operation of sow distribution, and the fixing of bacon export quotas. Under this program, prices vary from time to time according to the grade of bacon produced, but are high enough to give the producer a satisfactory price from the curer.

The Fat Cattle Subsidy Program pays a subsidy for cattle slaughtered locally for export. This subsidy also extends to cattle and sheep exported to the United Kingdom for slaughter within 72 hours after arrival. Subsidy payments to livestock producers are based on the difference between the schedule of guaranteed prices fixed by the government and the actual market price received for the livestock. Price guarantees on cattle are limited to steers weighing 730 pounds, with at least a dressing percentage of 54 percent. Lambs must have a liveweight of not less than 55 pounds to be eligible.

Irish cattle, sheep, and lambs exported to the United Kingdom qualify under the British Fatstock Guarantee Program. Feeder cattle and sheep must remain in the United Kingdom for a period of 3 months in order to be eligible for the full subsidy payment. The 14-day attested cattle have been eligible for the guaranteed price since April 18, 1960.

In addition to the subsidy programs and support price programs, the Ministry of Agriculture also assists livestock producers by supplying breeding stock for pigs, cattle, and sheep. Purebred bulls, rams, and boars are available for leasing to individual producers to assist in upgrading pigs, cattle, and sheep. Artificial insemination facilities are also available to producers.

Slaughterhouse Facilities

During 1960, 562,000 head of cattle were slaughtered in Ireland, compared with 508,000 in 1959 and 395,000 during 1951-55. Slaughter in 1960 was 11 percent above 1959 and 42 percent above the 1951-55 average.

Sheep and lamb slaughter during 1960 was at an alltime high of 1.5 million head, 25 percent above the 1959 total of 1.2 million and 95 percent above the 1951-55 average of 769,000 head.

Hog slaughter in 1960 totaled 1.4 million head, 8 percent above the 1.3 million in 1959 and 27 percent above the 1.1 million during 1951-55.

There are 9 public slaughterhouses, 6 cooperative slaughterhouses, and 1,300 private slaughterhouses in Ireland. These are administered primarily by local authorities under the general supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. The local authorities are empowered with the authority to make the bylaws for licensing and registration of all slaughterhouses. They are also in charge of the management and fees for the use of the slaughterhouses, and are granted the right to make the laws regulating the sale of meats in the area pursuant to the inspection laws of that area.

TABLE 3.--LIVESTOCK: Irish slaughter, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Year	Cattle and calves	Sheep and lambs	Hogs
Average:	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>
1951-55.	395	769	1,092
Annual:			
1956.	333	927	1,045
1957.	392	916	1,256
1958.	414	1,204	1,474
1959.	508	1,236	1,280
1960.	562	1,454	1,402

Source: Irish Ministry of Agriculture.

Meat inspection in all areas is performed by veterinary inspectors, sometimes assisted by non-veterinarian personnel who have had the necessary training.

The slaughter of animals for export is done at slaughterhouses registered by the Ministry of Agriculture under the Agricultural Produce Acts, or licensed under the Pig and Bacon Acts. Before a license is granted, slaughterhouse premises must comply with certain stipulations as to structure, equipment, sanitation, and so forth, as set by the Ministry of Agriculture. All animals slaughtered at these slaughterhouses are subject to an anti-mortem and post-mortem examination by veterinary officers of the Ministry.

Bacon factories where slaughtering is done by the domestic market are subject to the same restrictions as those in which slaughter is done for export.

Meat chilling facilities are provided in most of the public slaughterhouses, but are not so common in private slaughterhouses. All bacon-curing and meat export establishments have these facilities and have freezing and refrigerated holding facilities. There are seven cold storage plants which, if necessary, can be utilized in connection with the meat export trade.

All meat exported from Ireland is subjected to some form of artificial cooling prior to export. Some of the slaughterhouses have modern equipment, including the overhead rail and the mechanical flaying machines. The continuous slaughter of pigs on the overhead rail system is in operation at nearly all slaughterhouses.

Trade Agreements and Subsidies

Ireland has trade agreements with most of the Western European countries, the most important being with the United Kingdom. This agreement dates back to 1938, and is revised periodically according to the needs stipulated by the two countries; it does not impose any restrictions on either Irish or U.K. trade with other countries. The agreement does, however, enable expanded trade by allowing the Irish either duty-free entry or preferential rates in the British market. Ireland, in turn, gives preferential rates to British goods entering the Irish market. The current trade arrangement grants Irish feeder cattle subsidy payments similar to those given the British-produced animals after the Irish cattle have been in the United Kingdom for a 3-month period.

All agreements are mainly in general terms, and include most-favored-nation treatment. Those with West Germany, Belgium, and France include commodity quotas for cattle and meat.

Export subsidies are paid on Irish bacon. Part of the cost of these subsidies are from appropriated funds and partly from levies on the bacon sold on the domestic market. Each bacon factory is required to export a fixed percentage of the Grade A bacon it produces. This percentage is adjusted periodically with an anticipated supply to assure adequate bacon on the domestic market. However, the U.K. trade agreement stipulates that Ireland will ship 90 percent of its bacon exports to Britain.

Foreign Trade

Cattle and Beef.--Cattle exports from Ireland during 1960 totaled 542,000 head, of which the United Kingdom took 512,000. West Germany took almost 15,000 head, and Belgium-Luxembourg about 3,000. The 1960 exports were comprised of 316,000 feeder cattle and 226,000 fat cattle, the largest annual export of fat cattle in Irish history. The 1960 live cattle exports were 27 percent above the 482,000 exported in 1959, of which the United Kingdom took 467,000 head. The 1959 live cattle exports were comprised of 403,000 head of feeder cattle and 79,000 head of fat cattle. Exports of live cattle in 1958 totaled 653,000 head, compared with the record 1957 year of 831,000 head, most of which were taken by the United Kingdom. The average annual exports of live cattle for 1951-55 were 261,021 head, 54 percent of which were feeder cattle and 46 percent fat cattle.

High prices and strong demand for feeder cattle in the United Kingdom have been influenced by the provisions of the U.K. "Fatstock Marketing Scheme." Under this system,

Table 4.--MEAT: Irish exports by country of destination, annual 1957-60

Commodity and country of destination	1957	1958	1959	1960
Beef and veal:	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Fresh or chilled:	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>
United Kingdom	5,275	6,211	14,949	31,663
Germany, West	10,305	7,455	7,732	6,902
France	2,970	1,589	2,365	1,201
Italy	3,474	973	1,026	1,692
United States	---	161	---	---
Spain	10,119	6,084	---	15
Venezuela	---	---	3,866	---
Other countries	1,404	595	162	---
Total	33,547	23,068	30,100	41,473
Frozen:				
United Kingdom	308	109	198	2,202
Germany, West	5,652	2,606	1,234	3,846
Netherlands	304	23	7	448
Sweden	1,382	475	185	293
United States	8,369	30,503	43,203	56,346
Other countries	10,186	1,839	2,258	1,320
Total	26,201	35,555	47,085	64,455
Canned beef:				
United Kingdom	17,649	17,024	16,069	18,492
United States	159	25	55	---
Other countries	41	24	172	208
Total	17,849	17,073	16,296	18,700
Pork:				
Bacon:				
United Kingdom	28,711	60,862	39,964	48,642
United States	131	151	135	149
Other countries	138	108	94	77
Total	28,980	61,121	40,193	48,868
Ham:				
United Kingdom	4,860	3,338	2,409	2,268
United States	11	11	9	24
Other countries	34	41	31	14
Total	4,905	3,390	2,449	2,306
Ham, canned:				
United Kingdom	333	392	271	159
Other countries	---	---	---	---
Total	333	392	271	159
Pork, fresh or frozen:				
United Kingdom	1,577	1,608	1,237	3,929
Other countries	13	517	11	
Total	1,590	2,125	1,248	3,929
Sausages, not canned:				
United Kingdom	3,903	2,759	1,822	1,193
British West Indies	422	643	732	622
Other countries	118	124	154	79
Total	4,443	3,526	2,708	1,894

Table 4.--MEAT: Irish exports by country of destination, annual 1957-60 (continued)

Commodity and country of destination	1957	1958	1959	1960
Mutton and lamb:	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Fresh, chilled or frozen:	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>	<i>pounds</i>
United Kingdom	10,333	14,205	15,113	20,937
Germany, West	---	211	38	243
Belgium-Luxembourg	58	55	---	76
Other countries.	742	393	1	144
Total	11,133	14,864	15,152	21,400
Other meat, canned:				
United Kingdom	3,967	4,214	4,065	5,724
Other countries.	506	1,635	2,017	2,183
Total	4,473	5,849	6,082	7,907
Cattle:	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>
United Kingdom	794	632	467	512
Belgium-Luxembourg	8	6	4	3
Germany, West	5	6	8	15
France	9	2	---	---
Netherlands	5	1	3	2
Other countries.	10	6	---	10
Total	831	653	482	542
Sheep and lambs:				
United Kingdom	160	195	246	310

Source: Prepared on the basis of official statistics of the Irish Ministry of Agriculture and reports of the U.S. Agricultural Attaché in Dublin.

the U.K. producers of feeder cattle receive "deficit payments" to bring their receipts up to a guaranteed price. Since imported Irish cattle, if retained for 3 months on U.K. farms, also receive this subsidy when sold for slaughter, U.K. feeder cattle dealers are willing to pay relatively high prices for Irish feeder stock. This has made it more profitable for Irish cattle producers to market their animals as feeders to the United Kingdom.

Exports of fat cattle have also increased. This has been very noticeable since the institution of the fat cattle subsidy through which cattle exported to the United Kingdom for slaughter within 72 hours after arrival are eligible for the subsidy payment.

Irish cattle trade will depend somewhat upon the future of Irish exports of live cattle to the United Kingdom. Exports of manufacturing beef may become more important in future years if the present trend continues.

Ireland has adequate slaughterhouse facilities for the slaughter of live animals previously shipped to the United Kingdom, and it is the hope of slaughterhouse operators that they can soon slaughter all domestic livestock locally in order to not only profit from the sale of the beef but also from the sale of the byproducts of the livestock industry.

Irish beef and veal exports during 1960 totaled 105.9 million pounds, compared with 77.2 million in 1959. These beef and veal exports were comprised of fresh, chilled, or frozen boneless. Exports of the frozen boneless beef and veal during 1960 totaled 64.5 million pounds, compared with 47.1 million in 1959, and 35.6 million pounds in 1958. The United States, the most important outlet for Irish frozen boneless beef and veal, took 56.3 million pounds during 1960 (87 percent), 43.2 million pounds in 1959 (92 percent), 30.5 million pounds (86 percent) in 1958. Other countries taking boneless beef included West Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

Exports of frozen boneless Irish beef to the United States are expected to continue as long as the United States is in need of manufacturing beef. However, if increased U.S. domestic

TABLE 5.--MEAT: Irish exports, product weight basis, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Commodity	Average 1951-55	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
Beef and veal:						
Fresh and chilled	36,104	23,044	33,547	23,068	30,100	41,473
Frozen	21,650	12,489	26,201	35,555	47,085	64,455
Canned	27,029	21,787	17,849	17,073	16,296	18,700
Pork:						
Bacon and hams, not canned	6,971	10,679	33,885	64,511	42,642	51,174
Hams, canned	2,310	1,237	333	392	271	159
Pork, fresh or chilled	21,488	4,620	1,590	2,125	1,248	3,929
Sausage, not canned	2,945	6,077	4,443	3,526	2,708	1,894
Lamb and mutton:						
Fresh, chilled or frozen	6,107	12,469	11,133	14,864	15,175	21,400
Other meat, canned	1,098	2,992	4,473	5,849	6,082	7,907
Total red meat	125,702	95,394	133,454	166,963	161,607	211,091

Source: Prepared on the basis of official statistics of the Irish Ministry of Agriculture and reports from the U.S. Agricultural Attaché.

production of cutter and canner type cattle should meet requirements, exports of Irish boneless beef will suffer; nevertheless, Ireland will probably continue to export this type of beef to the United States to some degree, even at reduced prices. The present embargo on fresh and frozen beef from Argentina to the United States--as a result of foot-and-mouth-disease throughout South America--gives Ireland a protective market in the United States.

In addition to the boneless beef and veal, Ireland exported 41.5 million pounds of fresh carcass beef and veal during 1960, compared with 30.1 million pounds in 1959, and 23.1 million in 1958. The United Kingdom is the most important outlet for this type of Irish beef, taking 31.7 million pounds in 1960 (76 percent) and 14.9 million pounds (49 percent) in 1959. Other countries receiving fresh or chilled beef and veal from Ireland during recent years include West Germany, Italy, and France, in order of importance.

In 1960, Ireland exported 18.7 million pounds of canned beef and veal, compared with 16.3 million pounds in 1959 and 17.1 million in 1958. The United Kingdom takes about 99 percent of these exports annually.

Mutton, Sheep, and Lamb.--Ireland shipped 310,000 head of sheep and lambs for slaughter in 1960, compared with 246,000 head in 1959. Practically all of these sheep were exported to the United Kingdom, the only important outlet for live Irish sheep.

Ireland is also a sizable exporter of mutton and lamb. During 1960, 21.4 million pounds were exported, compared with 15.2 million pounds in 1959 and 14.9 million in 1958. The United Kingdom is also the main outlet for Irish mutton and lamb. During 1960, it took 20.9 million pounds, (97 percent of total exports) in 1959, 15.1 million pounds (99 percent). West Germany and Belgium-Luxembourg have been small outlets for mutton and lamb from Ireland. The United States has imported Irish mutton and lamb in the past, but it is not expected to import any significant amounts in the foreseeable future.

Table 6.--MEAT: U.S. imports from Ireland, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Commodity	Average 1951-55	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
Beef and veal:						
Fresh, chilled, or frozen.	(4,613	(3,725	191	105	964	13
Boneless beef			6,350	23,636	41,013	43,601
Pork:						
Hams, shoulders and bacon	78	88	130	114	145	154
Pork, other, pickled or salted . .	1	---	2	13	---	---
Lamb, fresh, chilled or frozen	15	---	1	1	---	---
Other meat, canned, prepared, or preserved.	2,612	10	3	34	7	9,178
Variety meats, edible fresh or frozen	46	---	---	30	---	---
Casings, sausage, other	---	---	---	---	1	---

Source: Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

Hogs and Pork.--Ireland is a large exporter of pork, mostly in the form of Wiltshire sides for consumption as "bacon" in the United Kingdom. Total exports during 1960 were 48.9 million pounds, compared with 40.2 million in 1959 and 61.1 million in 1958. The United Kingdom takes about 99 percent of total bacon exports.

Ireland also exports hams, amounting to 2.3 million pounds in 1960, compared with 2.4 million in 1959, and 3.4 million in 1958. The United Kingdom, the major outlet for this commodity also, took practically all Irish ham exports during these 3 years.

Ireland is an exporter of canned hams too, but a small one: which totaled 159,000 pounds in 1960, 271,000 in 1959, and 392,000 in 1958. At present, the United Kingdom is the sole outlet for this commodity. Fresh and frozen pork is also shipped to the United Kingdom in substantial quantities. Ireland exports small amounts of sausages and processed pork meats, mostly to the United Kingdom, with small amounts going to the British West Indies. Exports to the British West Indies compete to a small extent with U.S. exports to that market.

Horses.--In addition to live cattle, sheep, lambs, and hogs, Ireland exports live horses for slaughtering and breeding. Exports of live horses in 1960 totaled 16,615 head compared with 17,851 head in 1959, 14,874 head in 1958, and 22,486 head in 1957. Most of these horses were shipped to France for slaughter, with a few going to Belgium for the same purpose. On November 17, 1960, however, the Irish Government announced new restrictions on exports of live animals. Under present regulations, live horses can be shipped only to the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, without special permit. Slaughter animals will be shipped to the European Continent as horsemeat exports in the future. Most of the Irish breeding horses have been shipped to the United Kingdom.

Consumption

Per capita consumption of red meats, excluding variety meats, in 1960 averaged 105.9 pounds, compared with 104.0 pounds in 1959, and a 94.4-pound average for the 1951-55 period. The Irish population consumes more pork than any other type of meat. During 1960, per

Table 7.--MEAT: Irish consumption, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Year	Beef and veal	Pork	Mutton and lamb	Total red meats
	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>	<i>Million pounds</i>
Average: 1951-55	92.1	146.3	41.2	279.6
Annual:				
1956.	93.9	140.9	52.5	287.3
1957.	96.0	149.2	53.2	298.4
1958.	93.6	148.4	57.1	299.1
1959.	91.1	139.5	65.5	296.1
1960.	89.6	150.1	60.4	300.1

Source: Irish Ministry of Agriculture.

capita consumption of pork was 53.0 pounds, while beef and veal were 31.6 pounds, and mutton and lamb 21.3 pounds. Per capita consumption of all meats has been on the increase since World War II, but is still considerably below that of the United Kingdom which had a per capita consumption of 141.4 pounds in 1960.

Irish per capita consumption of meat is extremely low compared with such countries as Uruguay, which averages an annual per capita consumption of 259 pounds, New Zealand 229 pounds, Australia 226 pounds, the United States 162 pounds and Canada 142 pounds. The low beef consumption in Ireland is attributed to the policy of exporting the bulk of the Irish beef to earn foreign exchange for the economy of the country.

Consumption of variety meats has unofficially been estimated at 2.6 pounds per capita in 1960, compared with 2.4 pounds in 1959. Consumption of variety meats is expected to increase as more live animals are slaughtered within the country instead of being exported as live animals to the United Kingdom.

Competitive Aspects

Ireland has traditionally exported between 80 and 85 percent of its livestock and meat products to the United Kingdom. In spite of sharp competition from Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand in the U.K. market, Ireland is able to compete because the United Kingdom extends the Commonwealth preference to this country.

Since 1950 the United States has imported increasing quantities of frozen boneless beef. The imports reached a peak of 44 million pounds in 1960. This beef has been used, for the most part, for manufacturing, since domestically produced U.S. beef of this type (canner and cutter beef) has been in short supply. History indicates that prices received by U.S. farmers for beef cattle must exceed that of slaughter cattle in Dublin by several dollars before trade becomes large. These conditions existed in 1950-52 when U.S. imports of boneless beef were high. U.S. prices are again relatively high. If production of manufacturing beef is increased in the United States and the price of boneless beef decreases substantially, Irish imports may decrease somewhat, unless Irish prices fall at the same time.

As prices fall, U.S. tariffs become larger in relation to the value of beef in a foreign port. Freight and other marketing costs become larger in proportion to the landed value. However, prices of boneless beef could decline substantially until they reach a level where U.S. imports from Ireland could cease completely, which is not likely. Imports tend to stabilize U.S. meat supplies and prevent extreme price fluctuations, which are characteristic of the livestock industry.

The United States is a large exporter of lard, tallow, greases, hog and beef casings, variety meats, cattle hides, and calf skins. Ireland, to some extent, is a competitor in the U.K. market for tallow and greases, cattle hides, and variety meats. For the most part, however, these products are included in the live cattle trade and are not listed as export items by Ireland. Lard exports from Ireland have not assumed much prominence.

Table 8.--MEAT: Irish per capita consumption, average 1951-55, annual 1956-60

Year	Beef and veal	Pork	Mutton and lamb	Total red meats
Average:	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
1951-55.	31.1	49.4	13.9	94.4
Annual:				
1956.	32.4	48.6	18.1	99.1
1957.	33.4	51.9	18.5	103.8
1958.	32.8	52.0	20.0	104.8
1959.	32.0	49.0	23.0	104.0
1960.	31.6	53.0	21.3	105.9

Source: Irish Ministry of Agriculture.

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